

THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In the home, most (all?) of the collapses begin with the foundation! And then, there are the many cover ups to save face! Best to start with a Biblical foundation!

I. We are the parents and not the children!

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey **your parents** (τοῖς γονεῦσιν ὑμῶν) in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers (οἱ πατέρες), provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- **Ephesians 6:4 obviously addresses fathers**
- **Ephesians 6:1 mentions parents**
- **Fathers in the Bible and ANE were **always** understood as being responsible for and in charge of the family – the leaders**
- **Parents are adults**
- **Parents are responsible**
- **Parents no longer act, think, or live **like** children**
- **Parents are mature**
- **Parents have dealt with their own childhood**

II. Who **must** actually parent!

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up** in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This sounds funny but many parents don't want to parent and aren't really prepared to parent.

Children are seen as:

- Accessories
- Accidents
- Necessary evils
- Fun at first

2 issues seem to dominate any discussion today:

- Screen time
- Conversation time between child and dad

III. Employing the two basic strategies!

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the **nurture** (παιδεία) and **admonition** (νουθεσία) of the Lord.

Parents have many tools and strategies but all of them fall under these two broad strategies:

- Nurture & admonition
- Love & discipline
- Yes & no
- Constructive & destructive
- Positive & negative
- Direction & correction

Thoughts:

- Both **must** be employed
- Both are necessary
- Both must not be employed equally
 - 50 / 50 split
 - 90-80 / 10-20 split
- The negative is **only** useful if it helps us accomplish the positive
- The negative is used PRN – *pro re nata* – as needed
- The negative establishes the positive
- **Only** negative / mostly negative produces anger, rage, bitterness &/ brokenness
- **Only** positive doesn't produce much of anything

Spoiled, lazy, narcissistic, all about me, living in the basement till....

IV. Avoiding the two basic dangers!

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, **provoke not** (μὴ παροργίζετε) your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, **provoke not** (μὴ ἐρεθίζετε) your children to anger, lest they **be discouraged** (ἀθυμῶσιν).

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: **but** a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, **and** he shall give thee rest; **yea**, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

1 Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; **because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.**

1 Kings 1:6 And his father had **not** displeased him **at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so?** and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.

Proverbs 10:1 A wise son maketh a glad father: **but** a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: **but** a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Proverbs 17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, **and** bitterness to her that bare him.

Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father....

1. Negative, anger-based parenting

This produces either bitterness or brokenness

2. Positive, emotion-based parenting

Which produces self-involved, entitled children